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Agenda item 65

COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rajab SUKAYRI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive test-ban treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 49/70 of 15 December 1994.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 October 1995, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57 to 78, 80 and 81. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 11th meetings, from 16 to 20 and on 25 and 26 October 1995 (see A/C.1/50/PV.3-11). Structured discussions of specific subjects within the adopted thematic approach were held from 30 October to 3 November. Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place at the 13th to 17th meetings, from 6 to 9 November (see A/C.1/50/PV.13-17). Action on the draft resolutions was taken at the 18th to 29th meetings, on 10, 13 to 17, 20 and 21 November (see A/C.1/50/PV.18-29).

4. In connection with item 65, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 14 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/224);

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(b) Letter dated 16 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/225);

(c) Letter dated 19 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final documents of the summit meeting of seven major industrialized countries, held at Halifax, Canada, from 15 to 17 June 1995 (A/50/254-S/1995/501);

(d) Letter dated 7 July 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/273);

(e) Letter dated 26 July 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/317-S/1995/627);

(f) Letter dated 16 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/357-S/1995/709);

(g) Letter dated 21 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/362);

(h) Letter dated 25 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/392);

(i) Letter dated 8 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Final Declaration of the Ninth Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held at Quito on 4 and 5 September 1995 (A/50/425-S/1995/787);

(j) Letter dated 1 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/430);

(k) Letter dated 11 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/431);

(l) Letter dated 12 September 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/445);

(m) Letter dated 18 September 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum, held at Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 3 to 15 September 1995 (A/50/475).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/C.1/50/L.8 and Rev.1) 1/

5. At the 16th meeting, on 8 November 1995, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela and Viet Nam submitted a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty" (A/C.1/50/L.8), which was later also sponsored by Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, the Gambia, Greece, Kazakstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Senegal, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

6. On 15 November, the same sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/50/L.8/Rev.1), which was also sponsored by Benin, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Liechtenstein, Malta, Gabon and Solomon Islands, which contained the following change: operative paragraph 4, which had read:

> "4. Further calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee at the commencement of its 1996 session, and to renew its mandate in order to complete the final text of the treaty not later than 30 June;"

was revised to read:

> "4. Further calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee at the commencement of its 1996 session, and to renew its mandate in order to complete the final text of the treaty as soon as possible in 1996;".

7. At its 25th meeting, on 17 November, the Committee adopted operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.8/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 161 to none, with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic,

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1/ Subsequently the delegations of Bolivia and Guinea withdrew from sponsorship of draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.8/Rev.1.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: China.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.8/Rev.1 as a whole without a vote (see para. 9).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/70 of 16 December 1993 and 49/70 of 15 December 1994, in which the entire international community supported the multilateral negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

Reaffirming that a comprehensive nuclear-test ban is one of the highest priority objectives of the international community in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation,

Convinced that the most effective way to achieve an end to nuclear testing is through the conclusion of a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that will attract the adherence of all States and will contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security,

Noting the aspirations expressed by the parties to the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 2/ to seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time, which are recalled in the preamble to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 3/

Welcoming the further elaboration of the rolling text in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban of the Conference on Disarmament, as reflected in the report of the Conference and its appendix, 4/ and the decision of the Conference to continue its work in inter-sessional meetings,

1. Welcomes the continuing efforts in the multilateral negotiation on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban of the Conference on Disarmament, the significant contributions to the rolling text made by States participating in those negotiations and progress in key areas;

2. Calls upon all States participating in the Conference on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to conclude, as a task of the highest priority, a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty which contributes to nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, so as to enable its signature by the outset of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly;

3. Also calls upon participants in the Conference on Disarmament to advance work on the basis of the rolling text during the inter-sessional negotiating period so as to proceed to the final phase of the negotiation at the beginning of 1996;

4. Further calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee at the commencement of its 1996 session, and to renew its mandate in order to complete the final text of the treaty as soon as possible in 1996;

2/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964.

3/ Ibid., vol. 729, No. 10485.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 27, chap. III, sect. A.

5. Urges all States to support the multilateral negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty and their prompt conclusion;

6. Declares its readiness to resume consideration of this item, as necessary, before its fifty-first session in order to endorse the text of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services for these negotiations;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session an item entitled "Implementation of the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty".

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Corrigendum

Page 3, footnote 1

The footnote should read

1/ Subsequently, the delegation of Guinea withdrew from sponsorship of draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.8/Rev.1.

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